Almost Paradise

Chapter 2

Presents:

MANGAKA

PUBLISHER

YEAR

ISBN

SCANS

TRANSLATOR

PROOFREADER

EDITOR

QCER

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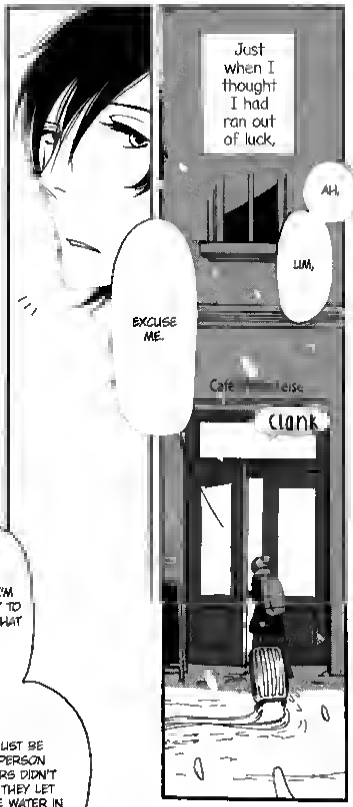
It was already past 9 p.m when I arrived at XXX airport in Berlin
then the transit took 2 hours
It took about 12 hours to get from Narita to Frankfurt
drip
Even though the owner slowly explained to me in English.. I couldn't understand most of it
<<
>>
According to my biological clock (Japan time), it's already 6 in the morning
And yet there's this poor treatment
The state of the room I'm going to have to stay in for one month
But I understand this

SO COLD
I FEEL LIKE CRYING RIGHT NOW...
THE INFO CENTER AT THE STATION IS PROBABLY CLOSED ALREADY
WHAT IS THAT?
THERE'S LIGHT COMING FROM THERE
I WONDER IF IT'S A HOTEL...
OH,
IT'S A CAFÉ...

Café Winterreise



the person I thought was a guest...

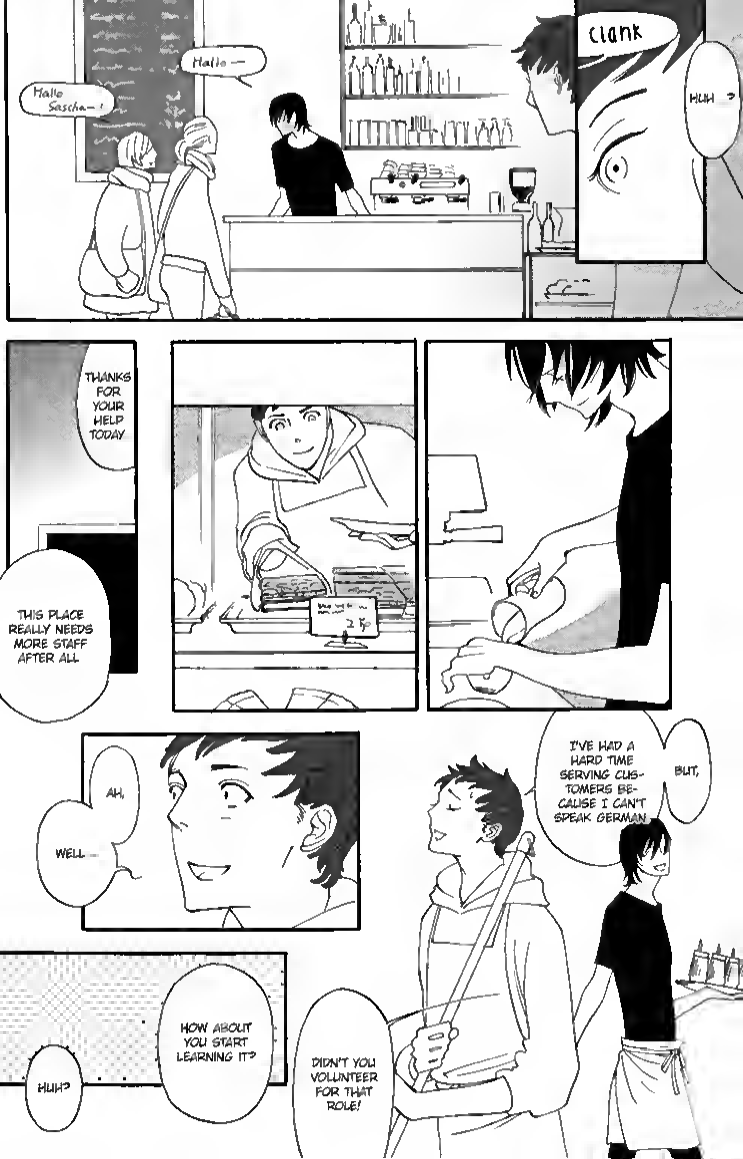
turned out to be the owner of this café

WATER IN THE WATER PIPE.
LET OUT?
Wha?
IF YOU DON'T DO SO THE WATER WILL GET FROZEN AND THE PIPE WILL BREAK
Even so,
AND THEN,
he has a beautiful face.
DURING THE DAY WHEN IT'S HOT
IT WILL BECOME LIKE YOUR ROOM
Crap
This is not the time to be charmed by his face
HERE,
ENJOY
BUT DO YOU KNOW OF ANY HOTEL, OR SOMEWHERE I CAN STAY FOR NOW?
UM I'M SO SORRY TO ASK THIS,
Thanks for the drink.
Hah, so warm.
IF YOU CAN HELP ME FIND A PLACE, I'D BE REALLY GRATEFUL.
WELL I CAN'T REALLY SPEAK GERMAN, SO

THE PLACE IS TOO BIG FOR ME TO LIVE ALONE.
SO I'M LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO SHARE THE RENT WITH.
SECOND FLOOR
YOU'RE LUCKY. THERE'S A VACANT ROOM IN MY APARTMENT
...
Uwaaahhh!
TH-THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
WELL THEN, I'LL BRING YOU LINEN AND STUFF
MAKE THE BED YOURSELF, OKAY
Thus,
I wasn't left freezing to death in a country on the other side of the earth

THAT'S RIGHT
IT'S A SMALL SHOP ANYWAY
Sascha is half Japanese, half German
DO YOU RUN THIS SHOP BY YOURSELF?
UM
YOU DON'T HAVE TO STAY AROUND, IT'S OKAY
YOU DON'T HAVE TO... I MEAN YOU ALREADY PAY THE RENT
IF-
I WANT TO DO SOMETHING AS A THANK-YOU
IF THERE'S SOMETHING I CAN DO, PLEASE LET ME HELP!

ANYWAY, WHY DID YOU COME TO BERLIN IN THE MIDDLE OF WINTER?
STUDY ABROAD...?
IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE THAT'S THE CASE
WELL,
YOU COULD SAY I'M GOING SIGHTSEEING...
UM...
I SAW THIS PROGRAM FEATURING THE BERLIN WALL ON TV AND SOMEHOW I WAS VERY TOUCHED...
OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT
TO BE HONEST IT'S NICE TO BE IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY
WHERE YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND THE LANGUAGE OR THE PLACES AND YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING
COULD IT BE...
...YOU'RE IN AN UNREQUITED LOVE?
THEN YOU CAN FORGET ALL OF THE BAD THINGS THAT'VE HAPPENED


Hallo Sascha—!
Hallo—
clank
HUH ?
THANKS FOR YOUR HELP TODAY
THIS PLACE REALLY NEEDS MORE STAFF AFTER ALL
AH, WELL—
I'VE HAD A HARD TIME SERVING CUSTOMERS BECAUSE I CAN'T SPEAK GERMAN
BUT,
DIDN'T YOU VOLUNTEER FOR THAT ROLE!
HOW ABOUT YOU START LEARNING IT?
HUH?

EHHH
EHHH
SHAPE YOUR MOUTH LIKE YOU'RE ABOUT TO SAY "OH" THEN TRY TO SAY "EH".
Was möchten Sie?
What can I help you with?
NOW TRY SAYING THIS.
OH? REALLY?
THAT'S RIGHT YOU RE DOING GOOD!
Sehr Gut!
Vas-meh..
Hmm
Practice Grammar
THE WEATHER IS NICE TODAY LET'S CLOSE THE SHOP AND GO OUT SOMEWHERE
YUKI!
!
brush brush
fall

It's the real thing.
I CAN OPEN AND CLOSE THE SHOP WHENEVER I LIKE
IT'S FINE IT'S FINE
TODAY IS SUNDAY, SO IT MUST BE CROWDED, RIGHT?
HUH?! IS THAT ALRIGHT?
It's so awesome!
Kmer
Here.
Yahoo!
IT'S JUST SAUSAGE WITH KETCHUP AND CURRY POWDER ON TOP.
CURRYWURST.
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO TRY IT.
Hehe!

YUMMY!
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT,
THERE ARE TIMES WHEN I MISS JAPANESE CURRY
THEN, WHEN I GO BACK TO JAPAN, I'LL SEND YOU SOME CURRY!
REALLY?
Thank you!
THEY ARE QUITE OPEN HERE IN BERLIN
ARE YOU BOTHERED?

It's not my friends
I also have gay friends.
I lied
Ah, no
It's not that
Did I... do something wrong...?
Sorry
I... have someone else that I like
That's not it
Yuki!

THE SUN IS SETTING
YUKI!
LET'S GO BACK
!
If I, too
find someone else I like, then maybe I can forget the past
Just like this I can forget it

THANK YOU I'LL COME BACK EARLY
IT'S NOT TOO BUSY TODAY. SO YOU CAN TAKE YOUR LEAVE
Buy
IF YOU GO TO KASTANIEN STREET I THINK THERE'S A NET CAFE THERE
I'M THE ANALOG KIND OF PERSON WHO DOESN'T EVEN HAVE A CELL PHONE
A PC?
AH,
I DON'T HAVE THINGS LIKE THAT HERE.
Lately, I've been able to exchange greetings normally
Hallo Marcus!
Halla, Yuki!
AH,
IT'S MR MARCUS.
Clank Clank
UWAH!
COLD
I'm sure
that's
It's not much but I'm happy about it

To Naoto
How are you?
To Naoto
Can we meet?
To Naoto
I want to talk to you one last time.
To Naoto
Please reply.
To Naoto
Sorry if I've bothered you.
To Naoto
This will be the last time.
GOODBYE. I'M FINALLY ABLE TO FORGET YOU.
DELETE
CLICK
AH!
I'LL BUY SOMETHING FOR SASCHA ON THE WAY BACK
I'M HOME!

HE CLOSED THE SHOP ALREADY...
DID HE GO OUT?
HM? THERE ARE TWO GLASSES.
DID HE HAVE A GUEST?
AH, HE'S IN THE ROOM OVER THERE
IF IT'S SASCHA'S FRIEND, THEN I SHOULD SAY HELLO.
HE-

creak
Marcus
M-Mehr
creak
creak
creak
creak

slide
What was I expecting
Well
THERE WAS NO WAY SOMEONE AS WONDERFUL AS SASCHA WOULD BE ALONE
Unter den Linden

SO. I'VE BEEN INDIRECTLY INTRUDING ON HIS PRIVATE LIFE
Chomp
THIS IS BAD
IT'S HAM AND CHEESE MY FAVOR-ITE.
WHY DOES HE REMEM-BER SUCH THINGS.
YUKI!
ARE YOU GOING OUT?
Wait a minute.
Here.
THIS FRESHLY BAKED BREAD JUST CAME IN TAKE SOME WITH YOU

WAH!
AH, THE SHOP IS STILL OPEN
From that day on, I've been trying to leave home early and come back late everyday

I'M HOME!
Clank
JUST ACT NOR-MAL
Clank
The next day
Heute geschlossen
Sascha said he wasn't feeling well, so he didn't open the shop
...

Yu—ki—!
Uwah
They talk so fast
heute geschlossen
And the next day
The day after that too
Heave-ho!
I SHOULD TAKE OUT THE TRASH
clang
clang
clang
clang
clang
clang
clang
!

SASCHA,
AH,
I FOUND SOMETHING REALLY GOOD AT THE SUPER MARTKET CLOSE TO ALEXANDER SQUARE THE OTHER DAY
YUKI...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
*Package: Gokurou Curry.
SURE
IF IT'S OKAY, COULD YOU GIVE ME A HAND
THIS!
ごくろう
カレー
I CAME JUST WHEN THEY WERE HAVING A JAPANESE FOOD FAIR.

I STILL HAVE A LOT OF THEM LEFT
That didn't happen though
I BROUGHT THESE IN CASE THE FOOD HERE DIDN'T SUIT MY TASTE
HEHE-HE...
Chi-n!
WHAT ABOUT RICE?
AH,
I have neither a rice cooker, nor rice
TA-DAH!
Instant rice!
DELICIOUS!
UWAH, I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW MANY YEARS IT'S BEEN!
This is great
He finally smiled a little

YUKI,
WHEN ARE YOU GOING BACK...?
NEXT MONDAY.
3 DAYS LEFT...
I SEE...
I'LL MISS YOU...
ME TOO...
TO BE HONEST, BEFORE COMING HERE I WAS DUMPED
WE HAD EVEN PLANNED TO GO TO BALI DURING WINTER BREAK.

BUT I'M GLAD I DID COME HERE
I'M SO HAPPY I WAS ABLE TO MEET YOU
THANKS TO YOU I WAS ABLE TO FORGET WHAT HAPPENED IN THE PAST
INSTEAD I WENT TO THE EXACT OPPOSITE KIND OF PLACE
IF I MUST PUT THIS IN AN EMBARRASSING WAY, THEN I GUESS I CAN CALL IT A SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY?
I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING...
AH, UM...
THE SHOP!
WON'T YOU OPEN IT AGAIN? I'LL HELP!
Some of the regular customers were asking about you again, Haruki.
I only understood a little though

THIS SHOP...
NO... NOT ONLY THE SHOP THIS APARTMENT, TOO
THE REAL OWNER ISN'T ME
HUH?
WHY ARE YOU GONNA DO THAT?
YUKI...
I ALREADY DECIDED TO CLOSE IT FOREVER.
WHAT?!
WHY WOULD MR. MARCUS DO SUCH A THING?
AREN'T YOU HIS LOVER?
IT BE-LONGS TO MARCUS.
THE OTHER DAY WHEN HE CAME HERE
IT WAS TO ANNOUNCE HE WAS GOING TO SELL THIS PLACE
THAT'S WHY I HAVE TO LEAVE BY THE END OF THE MONTH
HUH?
THAT'S NOT IT!
IT'S NOT THAT I SAW ANYTHING
AH... I MEAN, SOMEHOW I GOT THAT FEELING...

MARCUS IS NOTHING LIKE THAT.
ABOUT TWO YEARS AGO I TOLD HIM I DIDN'T HAVE ANY MONEY OR A PLACE TO STAY.
SO HE LET ME STAY HERE AND RUN THE SHOP.
TO SHOW MY GRATITUDE, OR SHOULD I SAY IN EXCHANGE FOR THE RENT, I SLEEP WITH HIM, THAT'S ALL.
I'M... NOT THE KIND OF PERSON YOU THINK I AM...
THAT'S...
MORE THAN THAT,
WHEN I THINK THAT I CAN'T DO ANYTHING FOR YOU,
IT'S SO FRUSTRATING—

IT'S ENOUGH FOR ME.
JUST YOU STAYING HERE RIGHT NOW WITH ME LIKE THIS.
That night,
The drinks were free
the shop finally turned it's lights on again
Seeing the reluctance from the customers who knew the story
I felt deeply touched

IT'S OKAY
I'M THINKING ABOUT OPENING MY OWN CAFÉ SOMEWHERE
IF I DO,
THANK GOD I STILL HAVE MY SAVINGS.
WILL YOU COME AGAIN?
THIS TIME STAYING MUCH LONGER—

There were so many things I wanted to tell him.
yet I couldn't utter a single word
WHAT I MEAN IS.
WILL YOU RUN A CAFÉ TOGETHER WITH ME ?

I just need to come back again, then I can say whenever I want to,

●END●